

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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Claims 1 – 27 (canceled)

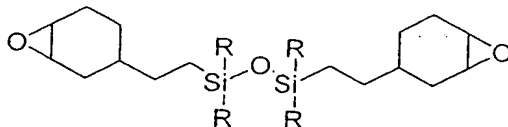
C<sub>3</sub>

Claim 28 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium comprising an acid generator capable of producing an acid upon exposure to actinic radiation; a binder; a difunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer; and a polyfunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer, the difunctional and polyfunctional epoxide monomers or oligomers being capable of undergoing cationic polymerization initiated by the acid produced from the acid generator, wherein said binder does not inhibit cationic polymerization of said difunctional and polyfunctional monomers or oligomers and the refractive index of said binder is significantly different from that of the polymerized difunctional and polyfunctional monomers or oligomers; and wherein said recording medium is capable of forming a volume hologram solely by cationic polymerization initiated by exposure to imagewise actinic radiation.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim ~~15~~ 28 wherein at least one of the difunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer and the polyfunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer comprises a siloxane.

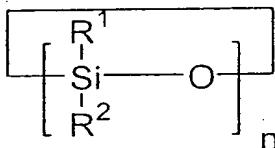
Claim 30 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim ~~15~~ 28 wherein at least ~~one of~~ one of the difunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer and the polyfunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer comprises a cycloalkene oxide.

Claim 31 (currently amended). A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 17 30 wherein the difunctional epoxide monomer is of the formula



wherein each R independently is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group.

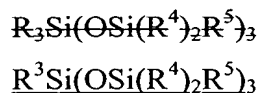
Claim 32 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 16 29 wherein the polyfunctional epoxide monomer is of the formula:



*C3 cont.*  
~~Wherein~~ wherein each group R<sup>1</sup> is, independently, a monovalent substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1-12</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-12</sub> cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl group; each group R<sup>2</sup> is, independently, R<sup>1</sup> or a monovalent epoxy functional group having 2-10 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least three of the groups R<sup>2</sup> are epoxy functional; and n is from 3-10.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 19 32 wherein the polyfunctional epoxide monomer is 1,3,5,7-tetrakis(2-(3,4-epoxycyclo-hexyl)ethyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethylcyclotetrasiloxane.

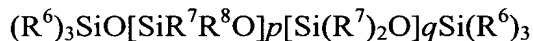
Claim 34 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to claim 16 29 wherein the polyfunctional epoxide monomer is of the formula:



wherein  $R_3$   $R^3$  is an  $\text{OSi}(R^4)_2R^5$   $\text{OSi}(R^4)_2R^5$  grouping, or a monovalent substituted or unsubstituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-12}$  cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl group; each group  $R^4$  is, independently, a monovalent substituted or unsubstituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-12}$  cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl group; and each group  $R^5$  is, independently, a monovalent epoxy functional group having 2-10 carbon atoms.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 24 34 wherein  $R^3$   $R_3$  is a methyl group or an  $\text{OSi}(R^4)_2R^5$   $\text{OSi}(R^4)_2R^5$  grouping, each group  $R^4$  is a methyl group, and each group  $R^5$  is a 2-(3,4-epoxycyclohexyl)ethyl grouping.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 16 29 wherein the polyfunctional epoxide monomer is of the formula:



each group  $R^6$  is, independently, a monovalent substituted or unsubstituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-12}$  cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl group; each group  $R^7$  is, independently, a monovalent substituted or unsubstituted  $C_{1-12}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-12}$  cycloalkyl, aralkyl or aryl group; each group  $R^8$  is, independently, a monovalent epoxy functional group having 2-10 carbon atoms, and  $p$  is an integer equal to or greater than 3 and  $q$  integers is an integer.

Claim 37 (currently amended). A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 23 36 wherein each group  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  is an alkyl group.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 24 37 wherein each group  $R^8$  is an 2-(3,4-epoxycyclohexyl)ethyl 2-(3,4-epoxycyclohexyl)ethyl grouping and  $p$  and  $q$  are approximately equal.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 15 28 comprising from about 0.2 to about 5 parts by weight of the

difunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer per part by weight of the polyfunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer.

C<sub>3</sub>  
cont.  
Claim 40 (currently amended): A volume holographic recording medium according to Claim 15 28 comprising from about 0.16 to about 5 parts by weight of the binder per total part by weight of the difunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer and the polyfunctional epoxide monomer or oligomer.

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